

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 128382
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05
OES-07 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 /126 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD:EVC
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN
NEA/PAB:RUNDERLAND (SUBS)
EA/P:DSALISBURY (SUBS)
NEA/PAB:DARCHARD (SUBS)
OFDA:RCLARY (SUBS)
HA/ORM:GMETSON (SUBS)

-----070460 210530Z /23

P R 210318Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 128382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BM

SUBJECT: MUSLIMS FLEEING BURMA

1. NEW YORK REP OF SAUDI PRESS AGENCY RAISED FOLLOWING
QUESTION AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON MAY 18, 1978:
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PAGE 02 STATE 128382

Q: TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY
HAVE BEEN TORTURED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY; THE DACCA
GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THERE ARE ABOUT ONE-QUARTER MILLION
MOSLEM REFUGEES FROM BURMA IN BANGLADESH. WHAT DOES
THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THESE REPORTS?

2. FOLLOWING RESPONSE WAS PROVIDED ON MAY 19:

A: WE KNOW THAT MANY THOUSANDS OF MUSLIMS FLEEING BURMA HAVE RECENTLY ENTERED BANGLADESH FROM BURMA'S ARAKAN STATE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW MANY. BANGLADESHI OFFICIALS SAY THAT 100,000 PEOPLE HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER SINCE THE BURMESE BEGAN A SPECIAL EFFORT AT ENFORCING IMMIGRATION LAWS IN APRIL.

THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS BY THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT AND PRESS OF MISTREATMENT. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT WORD OF THE BURMESE IMMIGRATION CHECK

SPREAD RAPIDLY IN THE NORTHERN ARAKAN AND MANY MUSLIMS WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION FLED SIMPLY TO ESCAPE POSSIBLE ARREST.

THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED AT THE UNFORTUNATE PLIGHT OF THESE PEOPLE. WE ARE EXAMINING WAYS WE MIGHT ASSIST THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IF ASKED. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 128382
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /018 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EA/TIMBS:MMEASTON
APPROVED BY:EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
HA:GMETSON (SUB)
-----003714 271452Z /50

R 270347Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS STATE 128382

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 128382 SENT ACTION RANGOON DACCA JIDDA INFO CALCUTTA COLOMBO GENEVA ISLAMABAD KATHMANDU NEW DELHI ROME 21 MAY QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 128382

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MOSLEMS, PRESS CONFERENCES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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From: STATE
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Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780536/aaaabeog.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: a7da8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2625433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUSLIMS FLEEING BURMA
TAGS: SREF, BM
To: RANGOON DACCA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7da8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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